

Your Tears” Screening and presentation of research posters.

The vision community and its coalition partners are uniting to recognize this growing threat to vision health, and I stand in support of these awareness and educational efforts.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE  
SERVICE OF EDWARD A. BURRIER

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation for an exceptional individual who has served this House with distinction for the last 18 years, Mr. Edward A. Burrier.

Edward first started in my office interning at the Africa Subcommittee, which I then chaired. At the time, he was still in college at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Each day he would make the long commute from Fredericksburg, just to volunteer.

He then took a job in my personal office in 1133 Longworth where he met his future wife, a fellow junior staffer, Gretchen. While I may have been unaware about their early dating, I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend their memorable wedding in Adare, Ireland in 2006. They now have a young son, William, and it has been a pleasure watching them grow personally and professionally.

Edward eventually rose to the position of Committee Deputy Staff Director of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Over the years, Edward was essential in achieving so much, including efforts to prevent the proliferation of MANPADS to terrorists, and major legislation sanctioning the regimes of North Korea and Iran, which are dangerously pursuing nuclear weapons programs. He found a niche in tracking international rogues, some of who are now behind bars for gun-running and creating mayhem, in part because of Edward's efforts. He also produced important reports, including the path-breaking Gangster Regime: How North Korea Counterfeits United States Currency, still relevant today. And he wrote for me hundreds of Foreign Intrigue blog entries, some of the most captivating foreign policy writing in Washington.

Everything he worked on became better. In the last Congress, the Committee succeeded in having 24 bills become public law. That's a big number, and an impressive record. In short, Edward has been involved in all the major foreign policy issues of the day, helping to make our country safer and more prosperous.

Over my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have had several long-serving staff members. Edward has been part of this group, central to much of what I have been able to accomplish. Most recently, he helped manage what I believe to be the best committee staff in Congress.

Edward is cool, calm, and collected. He is a genuinely good person.

Edward was one of the most talented, competent, and dedicated staff members in the

House. His skills and excellent judgment will serve him well as he transitions to a top position at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. His many friends on the Hill, both Republicans and Democrats, wish Edward continued success.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN AND TODD  
AARHUS

**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two brothers from the First District of Iowa on their retirement after their 31 years of service in the Iowa National Guard.

Ryan and Todd Aarhus are a shining example of citizenship and servitude to our great nation. During their 31 years of service, both brothers were deployed. Todd served as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, and both brothers served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ryan and Todd have both had distinguished careers of service—not only have they served their country and state in the Iowa National Guard, but both also serve as Iowa State Patrol Officers, volunteer firefighters, and EMTs. Additionally, Todd also served on Governors Culver and Branstad's State Security details.

It is my pleasure to honor both Ryan and Todd Aarhus on their retirement and to thank them for their dedication and service to our community, the State of Iowa, and our nation.

COMMANDER MARK COONEY

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Wheat Ridge Police Commander Mark Cooney for his decades of service to the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado. For thirty eight years, Commander Cooney has been active within the community and the police department serving constituents of Wheat Ridge.

Commander Cooney started his career in 1979 after graduating first in his class at the Police Academy. Mark's career has consistently shown his commitment to law enforcement and building community partnerships. His work as a Field Training Officer and later Detective showed his special acumen in investigations, being recognized by the First Judicial District Attorney's office as Investigator of the Year by solving a difficult burglary case. Mark was promoted to Sergeant, then Lieutenant, and finally serving as Commander—all the while excelling at investigations and as a leader in the department's emergency management planning. Mark has shown his thirst for learning by earning a Master's of Criminal Justice degree from the University of Colorado, graduating from the Northwestern University School of Staff and Command as well as graduating from the FBI National Academy. As the Chief of Police for the City of Wheat

Ridge noted, Mark's dedication exemplifies their vision statement of “Exceptional People Providing Exceptional Service.” His hard work and dedication every day to making the community of Wheat Ridge a great place to live and work demonstrates his exemplary work as a police officer in Wheat Ridge.

I extend my deepest thanks to Commander Cooney for his service to the community. Thank you for your continuous dedication to serving the people and the City Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNUAL  
METRO DETROIT YOUTH  
DAY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2017*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the organizers and participants of the 35th annual Metro Detroit Youth Day. This annual event provides southeast Michigan youth with a day of fun, games and opportunities to engage with local officials and role models.

Originally started in 1981 to promote stronger relations between residents of Detroit and the business community, Metro Youth Day has expanded significantly and now provides approximately 35,000 Detroit-area children with a day of education and recreation on Belle Isle in the Detroit River. As the largest youth event in the State of Michigan, Metro Youth Day hosts over 360 organizations and 260 businesses from Metro Detroit to provide participants with opportunities to build connections with civic leaders and nonprofit groups. These include Grow Detroit Youth Talent, an organization that provides summer jobs for young people in Detroit, as well as educational events by local community groups. Youth Day also offers college scholarships to several dozen graduating high school students each year.

Metro Detroit Youth Day helps build a culture of civic engagement while also providing important resources and educational resources to area youth. The event has received widespread acclaim, including a Point of Light Award from President George H.W. Bush, as well as a Michigan Governor's Award on Physical Fitness for its promotion of physical activity and health. These accolades underscore the positive impact that Metro Youth Day has on the Detroit community. Additionally, the event has provided more than 1,800 college scholarships to graduating seniors since 1991, making it an important engine of opportunity for area youth. These efforts have helped create a stronger and more cohesive Detroit, and it is my hope that Metro Youth Day continues to grow and serve the Detroit area youth while promoting improved community relations in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the organizers and participants of the 35th annual Metro Detroit Youth Day. The event provides important resources and opportunities for participants.